SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 4
DATE 1-12-11
BILL NO. SB44

Testimony of Steve White
In Opposition of SB 44

Mr. Chairperson, members of the Senate Education Committee, my name is Steve White. I reside in Bozeman and am representing the Montana Coalition of Home Educators; a statewide organization composed of homeschooling families dedicated to the education of their children.

I am testifying today in opposition to SB 44.

Passage of this bill will raise the compulsory attendance age from 16 to 18.

Passage of SB44 Adversely Affects Parents of Non-Public Students

All children in Montana from the ages 7-16 are under the compulsory attendance laws. Homeschool and private school students are exempted from compulsory attendance in public schools per 20-5-109 MCA. Supreme court decisions support a parent's right to direct the education of their children, as guaranteed by the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (Pierce v. Society of Sisters and Wisconsin v. Yoder).

Presently all families that are home educating their children are required to notify the county superintendent annually until the child reaches 16 (20-5-109(5) MCA). This law would increase the age to 18. This adds two more years to the exemption requirement.

A significant change in law with the passage of this bill is the new language in Section 1: "the date of completion **of high school graduation requirements**". This language, broadly interpreted, could require some type of achievement test to prove completion. This is in direct conflict with another section of Montana law; 20-5-111 MCA (the parent is solely responsible for the evaluation of the home school instruction).

The passage of SB44 will undermine a home or private school parent's right to direct their decision for the instruction of their children. This change affects thousands of families in Montana.

Raising the Compulsory Attendance Age Fails to Achieve Significant Results

Raising the compulsory attendance age will not reduce the dropout rate. In fact, the two states with the highest high school graduation rates (New Jersey, 84.5% and North Dakota, 83.1%) compel attendance only to age 16, but the state with the lowest completion rate (South Carolina, 52.5%) compels attendance to age 17.

25 states have compulsory attendance age laws similar to Montana's present one – age 16.

• Among the 50 states and D.C., there is no consistent relationship between the maximum compulsory age and graduation and dropout rates.
• States with a compulsory attendance age of 16 have higher average and median graduation rates than states with compulsory attendance ages of 17 and 18. States with a compulsory attendance age of 16 have average and median dropout rates comparable to states with compulsory attendance ages of 17 and 18.
• There is no consistent relationship between compulsory attendance ages and graduation rates among industrialized nations. Students in countries with a maximum compulsory attendance that is lower than the United States often graduate at a higher rate than students in the United states do.
• School systems and law enforcement officials must begin earnestly enforcing existing truancy laws for public school students who have not reached 16 years of age but are chronically absent from school.

Research agrees that increasing the compulsory attendance age does not guarantee an increase in the graduation rate or a decline in the dropout rate. Professor Rosemary J. Avery of Cornell University analyzed dropout and graduation rates before and after four states raised their compulsory attendance age. In her analysis, none of the states increased their graduation rate. Dropout data for Minnesota and Wyoming also showed no improvement attributable to the change.

Taken as a whole, states with a compulsory attendance age of 16 have higher average and median graduation rates than states with an attendance age of 17 and 18 (Table 2). Similarly, states with a compulsory attendance age of 16 have average and median dropout rates comparable to state with an attendance age of 17 and 18.

In examining NINE states that have modified their compulsory attendance age law since 1991, there has been no significant change to graduation rates. (Table A)

Compulsory attendance age: an International Look

Most industrialized nations maintain a compulsory attendance age

requirement for their youth. At 17 years old, the average compulsory attendance age in the United States is higher than that of most other nations.

On average, schools in the United States require their children to stay in school one year longer than the international average. Students in the United States are required to stay in school two years longer than students in Japan. There is no observable relationship between compulsory attendance age and graduation rates among nations. But, students in countries with a maximum compulsory attendance age lower than that of the United States often graduate at a higher rate than students in the United States do.

See attached figure.

Fiscal Impact to Taxpayers

The fiscal note for SB 44 is over ONE MILLION DOLLARS. This represents an expansion of government, and more spending, with little results. The fiscal note only assumes a 4% increase in graduation rates.

There is one important item missing from the Fiscal Note; the impact on local government. To employ this change in law to reduce drop-outs will require an aggressive truancy program by local school districts, AND county superintendents. The Fiscal Note does not include the expense to local governments to enforce a truancy laws on additional students.

Because truancy will be an expensive responsibility, the Fiscal Note is flawed.

The Value of Education

It is unfortunate that some students fail to appreciate the value of education. There are many teachers, both in the public and private sectors that are frustrated with students who drop out. Fortunately, some return later to complete their education. SB 44 does not solve the problem. By the age of 16 there are some young folks that are determined to leave. To require them to stay in an institution that they are not interested in becomes a hardship for both their fellow students, and their teachers.

For a student to stay in school, they must understand the value of it. Their parents must remain participants. To compel a student to remain, often ends up with disruption in both the classroom and school. Schools are for learning, and for those students that want to complete their education.

Presently Montana's statute requires compulsory attendance from the age of 7 years to 16 years of age, or 8th grade, whichever is the later date. This bill makes creates a significant change to Montana's statute. And this change creates a hardship on the homeschooling families in Montana.

In Montana, a student may end high school by taking the GED as early as 16.

And many that do this, ultimately enter college or a vo-tech school. In 1999, the Montana Board of Regents passed a change to the entrance policy for the Montana U system (attached). This change in policy allows a student to enter into college with either a GED, or satisfactory performance on either the ACT or COMPASS exams. None of the requirements are related to completing the 12th grade or the age of student.

And modification of 20-5-102 and 20-5-103 for compulsory exemption as proposed in SB 44; "(b) the date of completion of high school graduation requirements", ultimately could disagree with present statute 20-5-111 MCA, that specifically states that the homeschooling parent is responsible for the evaluation of the homeschool student. 20-5-111 MCA was passed into law in 1991, with much discussion and debate regarding a parent's right to home educate their children. It ultimately received strong support from both parties (with over 50 co-signers), and passed overwhelmingly. SB 44, carried to the fullest letter of the law could require homeschooling parents to prove that their children's education is that of the completion of the 12th grade.

Conclusion

Montana's public school, private school and homeschooling families will not benefit from the passage of this bill. Raising the compulsory attendance age undermines a student's opportunity to advance from secondary schooling, and the educating private schooling parent's legal decision when high school is completed.

Educational public policy should encourage excellence and responsibility in parenting so that children will develop emotionally, socially, and achieve academically, and will be better able to handle the challenges of adulthood when they mature.

The solution to increasing graduation rates is not to increase the compulsory attendance age. This is not much different than in the private sector for a business to try and increase retail sales by locking customers in the store until they buy something. The solution is to improve the product to increase the demand for it – thus an increase in sales.

Public schools should examine their programs. Successful education programs should focus on new ways to demonstrate excellence. There are a number of opportunities to explore, such as charter schools, distant learning, rewarding successful teachers, etc.

Lawmaking should not outrun science. We ask that you oppose SB44.

End Notes

1. Kyle Zinth, "Compulsory School Age Requirements," Education Commission of the States, August 2006, pp. 1-3. **(Figure 1, Table 1 and 2)**
2. North Carolina's General Statute §115C-378 states, "Every parent, guardian or other person in this State having charge or control of a child
between the ages of seven and 16 years shall cause such child to attend school continuously for a period equal to the time which the public school to which the child is assigned shall be in session."
3. Zinth, *op. cit.*, p. 1.
4. General Assembly of North Carolina, Session 2007, House Bill 1790, "Raise Compulsory Educ. Age & Grad. Rate." Sponsors: Representatives Bryant, Bordsen, Wainwright, Jones (Primary Sponsors); Brown, Carney, Faison, Rapp, Ross, and Womble.
5. *Ibid.*
6. Testimony before the House Education Committee, May 8, 2007.
7. *Ibid.*
8. *Ibid.*
9. Zinth, pp. 1-3.
10. The CPI is the Cumulative Promotion Index, a method of calculating state graduation rates created by Christopher Swanson of the Urban Institute. According to "Getting Honest about Grad Rates" by Daria Hall of The Education Trust, the CPI compares the number of 10^{th} graders in one year to the number of 9th graders in the previous year to estimate the percentage of 9th graders who were promoted. The same calculation is performed for the other grades and multiplies these four ratios to arrive at an estimated graduation rate. CPI is used by such organizations as the Harvard Civil Rights Project and the Education Commission of the States. The graduation rates used in this analysis are taken from "Diplomas Count: An Essential Guide to Graduation Policy and Rates," *Education Week* [Special Report], June 22, 2006.
11. Rosemary J. Avery, "Policy Analysis on the Efficacy of Increasing the Compulsory School Attendance Age in Terms of Decreasing Withdrawal Rates Prior to Graduation as Well as Increasing High School Graduation Rates," Cornell University, October 4, 2002, pp. 1-16.
12. *Ibid.*, pp. 2-4. "In terms of event dropout rates, only data were available for Minnesota and Wyoming: respective rates for 1997-98, before implementation, were 4.9% and 6.4%. Respective rates for 1998-99, after implementation, were 4.5% and 5.2% (See Appendix, Item E). The data indicate declines in event dropout rates for both states, with Wyoming satisfying the evaluative criteria for efficacy (1.2% decrease). However, this data contradicts the data for the HSCR's for these states because the HSCR's and dropout rates should be inversely related over a given time period. Also, the 0.4% decrease witnessed in Minnesota was part of a three-year downward trend, beginning in 1996, when the rate was 5.5%. This lends support for the hypothesis that the decreases in rates from 1998-99 were not solely due to the change in the SLA, rather were more likely a result of other dropout prevention measures implemented earlier. All in all, there is no immutable statistical support for the efficacy of raising the SLA to 18 years in terms of raising the HSCR's and lowering the event dropout rates" (p. 4). **(Table 3)**
13. *Ibid.*, p. 5.
14. *Ibid.*, p. 6.
15. Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development, "Education at a Glance: OECD Indicators 2006," 2006. Only OECD countries with an available upper secondary graduation rate were included. **(Table 4)**
16. *Ibid.*, p. 266.
17. *Ibid.*, p. 48.
18. This is the average of all OECD countries for which data are available, including countries not listed here.
19. Jerry R. Bailey, "State Fiscal Note Statement for HB 113: An Act relating to compulsory school attendance," Legislative Research Commission, Commonwealth of Kentucky, March 3, 1998.
20. David Porter, "SB06-073: State and Local Revised Fiscal Impact," Colorado Legislative Council, April 24, 2006.
21. "Senate Staff Analysis and Economic Impact Statement: CS/SB 772," Children and Families Committee, State of Florida, March 8, 2006.
22. Dwayne Ferguson, "HF 6 – Compulsory Attendance Age Fiscal Note," Fiscal Services Division, Iowa Legislative Services Agency, February 21, 2007.
23. Ibid., p. 2.
24. North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), "Dropouts by LEAs, School Years, Grades, Ages, Races, Genders and Reasons, 2005-2006," Education Statistics Access System, accessed April 2007, 149.168.35.67/wds/ReportFolders/ReportFolders.aspx. The total
includes students in grades 7-12. The ESAS systems reports a different total than the Annual Dropout Event Report for School Year 2005-06 because it does not include charter schools. According to the dropout report, 22,943 students in grade 7-12 dropped out in 2005-06, compared to 22,774

reported by the ESAS.

25. *Ibid.* Due to poor data collection and reporting, the state dropout report does not indicate how many students return to school after dropping out. Thus, I use the Colorado Legislative Council's estimate that 75 percent of dropouts do not return to school, and therefore are not covered by state funding.
26. *Ibid.* According to Colorado Legislative Council analysts, one study showed that compulsory attendance laws retained 10 percent of potential dropouts. See Joshua D. Angrist and Alan B. Krueger, "Does Compulsory School Attendance Affect Schooling and Earnings?" *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol. 106, No. 4. (November 1991), p. 992. I follow the CLC and apply this rule to North Carolina dropouts.
27. Per-pupil expenditures for the 2005-06 school year. See NCDPI, "2005-06 Selected Financial Data," Division of School Business, November 2006, www.ncpublicschools.org/fbs/resources/data. The per-pupil expenditure is an estimate based on the 2005-06 state averages of $7,596 per pupil for educational services and $763 per pupil for capital expenditures. Assuming yearly increases in per-pupil expenditure of four percent, the estimated per-pupil expenditure will be $8,216 by the 2007-08 school year. The per-pupil expenditure for capital expenses has fluctuated over the last few years, so I use the current amount in the estimate. The total per-pupil expenditure used is $8,979.
28. John William Pope Civitas Institute, "April 2007 Decision Maker Poll," 2007, jwpcivitasinstitute.org/keylinks/polls.html. The results may have been skewed by the introductory clause of the question. The question asked: "In light of the 32 percent dropout rate, do you support or oppose increasing the mandatory school attendance age from 16 to 18 years of age?" The introductory clause states incorrect information. The 32 percent remainder of North Carolina's 68 percent four-year (cohort) graduation rate is not the actual dropout rate because a portion of the remainder includes students that graduate in more than four years. The annual dropout rate is around 5 percent, and the state does not calculate a four-year dropout rate. More importantly, the dropout rate statistic creates a context favorable to the policy change being proposed.
29. Q.v., "N.C. lawmakers want to raise minimum drop-out age," WWAY TV3 Online, April 24, 2007, www.wwaytv3.com/node/1355.
30. For an excellent primer on the arguments for and against raising the compulsory attendance age, see Chloe Gossage, "Should North Carolina Raise the Compulsory Schooling Age?," Legislative Policy Briefing, J.W.P. Civitas Institute, March 1, 2007, jwpcivitasinstitute.org/keylinks/pol_an.html.
31. Elkind, David. "Making Healthy Educational Choices," *Mlsedcation: Pre-schoolers at Risk,* 1987
32. Fuller, Cheri. "Early Schooling: An Idea Whose Time Has Gone . *Southwest Policy Institut¢ Policy Study,* No, 2, 1989. p. 3
33. Lynn, Lee Anne and Vicki Winstead. "Mandatory kindergaten means parents lose even more control." The *Birmingham News,* June 5, i991
34. Ibid.
35. Rockwell, Llewellyn H, "Dead Start," *Free Market,* January 1991, p. 2
36. Winstead, Vicki, "A Study in Support of Parental Choice in Early Childhood Education.' published by Eagle Forum of Alabama, 1991
37. Testimony before the Connecticut House Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee meeting March 27, 1998
38. Klicka Christopher J. *Home Schooling in the United States: A legal Analysis,* Home School Legal Defense Association, 1985, 1998
39. Testimony before the Connecticut House Finance, Revenue, and Bonding~ Committee meeting March 27, 1998, Elaine Zimmerman, Executive Director of the Commission on Children and George Coleman of the Connecticut State Department of Education Division of Educational Programs and Services Bureau of Early Childhood Education and Social Services.

Figure 1. Maximum Compulsory Attendance Age Among U.S. States and D.C.

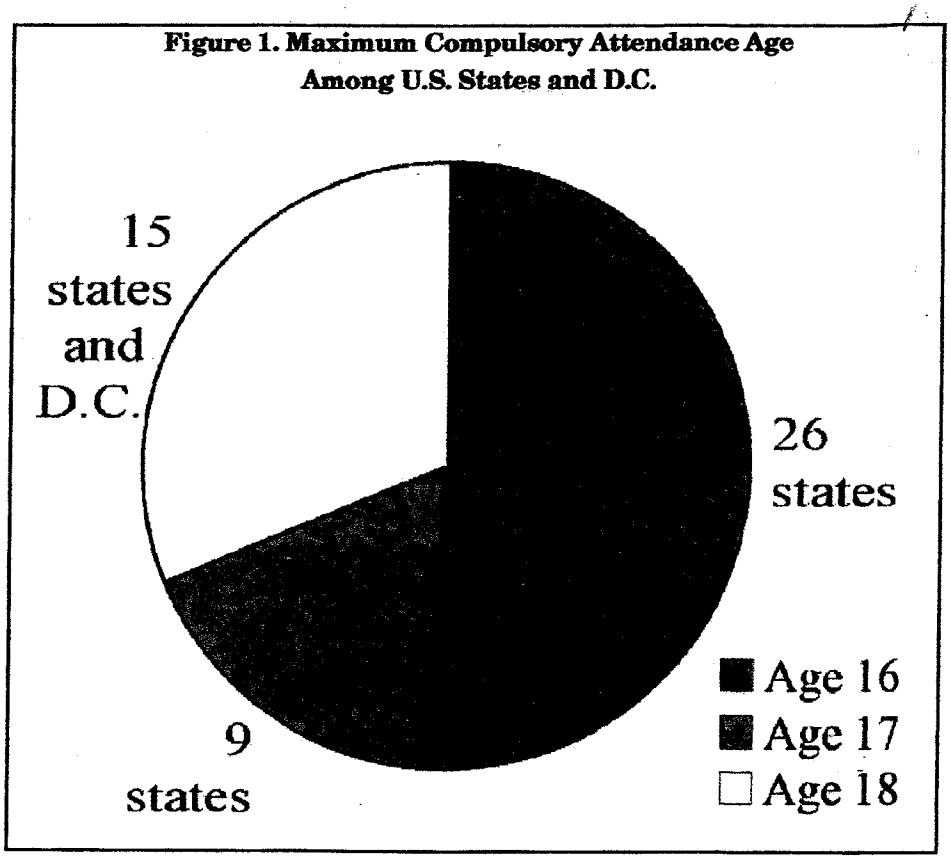

Table 2. Summary of Table 1: Average and Median Graduation and Dropout Rates by Maximum Compulsory Attendance Age

Maximum Compulsory Attendance Age	Average Graduation Rate	Median Graduation Rate	Average Dropout Rate	Median Dropout Rate
16 years old	71.7	72.9	4.0	3.55
17 years old	67.2	71.8	4.1	3.4
18 years old	70.4	71.0	4.0	3.5
U.S. and D.C. Average	69.6	72.3	4.0	3.4

Table 3. Completion Rates Before and After an Increase in Compulsory Attendance Age

State	*Year of change*	*Average completion rate two years before change*	*Average completion rate two years after change*
Texas	1996	79.3%	79%
Kansas	1996	91.6%	91%
Minnesota	1998	95.3%	92%
Wyoming	1998	89.4%	87%

Table 4. Compulsory Attendance Age and Graduation Rates among OECD Nations

Country[15]	*Maximum Compulsory Attendance Age*[16]	*Graduation Rate (2004)*[17]
Norway	16	100
Germany	18	99
Korea	14	96
Ireland	15	92
Japan	15	91
Denmark	16	90
Finland	16	90
Switzerland	15	89
Czech Republic	15	87
Hungary	16	86
Iceland	16	84
Slovak Republic	16	83
France	16	81
Italy	15	81
Poland	16	79
Sweden	16	78
New Zealand	16	75
United States	**17**	**75**
Luxembourg	15	69
Spain	16	66
Turkey	14	53
Mexico	15	38
OECD average[18]	16	81

Table B. Averaged freshman graduation rates for public secondary schools, by state or jurisdiction: Selected years, 1990-91 through 2006-07

Compulsory Attendance Age: 16 17 18

State or	1991	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
United States ...	73.7	73.1	71.8	71.0	71.3	71.3	71.1	71.7	71.7	72.6	73.9	74.3 \1\	74.7	73.4 \2\	73.9
Alabama	69.8	64.3	64.8	62.7	62.4	64.4	61.3	64.1	63.7	62.1	64.7	65.0	65.9	66.2	67.1
Alaska	74.6	73.8	71.2	68.3	67.9	68.9	70.0	66.7	68.0	65.9	68.0	67.2	64.1	66.5	69.0
Arizona	76.7	71.7	65.1	60.8	65.3	65.6	62.3	63.6	74.2	74.7	75.9	66.8	84.7	70.5	69.6
Arkansas	76.6	76.1	72.7	74.2	70.6	73.9	73.7	74.6	73.9	74.8	76.6	76.8	75.7	80.4	74.4
California	69.6	68.6	66.8	67.6	68.8	69.6	71.1	71.7	71.6	72.7	74.1	73.9	74.6	69.2	70.7
Colorado	76.3	77.3	76.0	74.8	74.7	73.9	73.4	74.1	73.2	74.7	76.4	78.7	76.7	75.5	76.6
Connecticut	80.2	79.9	77.2	76.1	76.7	76.9	76.0	81.9	77.5	79.7	80.9	80.7	80.9	80.9	81.8
Delaware	72.5	70.8	68.7	70.4	71.7	74.1	70.4	66.8	71.0	69.5	73.0	72.9	73.0	76.3	71.9
District of Columbia	54.5	58.7	54.6	49.7	54.6	53.9	52.0	54.5	60.2	68.4	59.6	68.2	66.3	65.4 \3\	54.8
Florida	65.6	64.2	63.5	62.3	62.7	62.1	61.4	61.0	61.2	63.4	66.7	66.4	64.6	63.6	65.0
Georgia	70.3	66.3	63.5	61.9	62.0	58.2	57.5	59.7	58.7	61.1	60.8	61.2	61.7	62.4	64.1
Hawaii	75.9	75.7	74.8	74.5	69.1	68.8	67.5	70.9	68.3	72.1	71.3	72.6	75.1	75.5	75.4
Idaho	79.6	79.9	80.2	80.5	80.1	79.7	79.5	79.4	79.6	79.3	81.4	81.5	81.0	80.5	80.4
Illinois	76.6	76.3	74.8	75.2	76.1	76.8	76.0	76.3	75.6	77.1	75.9	80.3	79.4	79.7	79.5
Indiana	76.9	74.7	73.8	73.6	74.0	73.8	74.3	71.8	72.1	73.1	75.5	73.5	73.2	73.3	73.9
Iowa	84.4	86.1	84.5	84.3	84.6	83.9	83.3	83.1	82.8	84.1	85.3	85.8	86.6	86.9	86.5
Kansas	80.8	80.2	78.8	77.1	76.9	76.0	76.7	77.1	76.5	77.1	76.9	77.9	79.2	77.5	78.8
Kentucky	72.9	79.2	73.8	71.3	71.1	70.2	70.0	69.7	69.8	69.8	71.7	73.0	75.9	77.2	76.4
Louisiana	57.5	61.5	62.4	61.7	59.3	61.3	61.1	62.2	63.7	64.4	64.1	69.4	63.9	59.5	61.3
Maine	80.7	74.0	73.6	73.7	75.2	78.5	74.7	75.9	76.4	75.6	76.3	77.6	78.6	76.3	78.5
Maryland	77.5	78.9	78.2	78.3	76.6	76.2	76.6	77.6	78.7	79.7	79.2	79.5	79.3	79.9	80.0
Massachusetts	79.1	79.7	78.1	78.0	78.4	78.3	77.9	78.0	78.9	77.6	75.7	79.3	78.7	79.5	80.8
Michigan	72.1	72.4	71.3	71.4	73.5	74.6	73.9	75.3	75.4	72.9	74.0	72.5	73.0	72.2	77.0
Minnesota	90.8	88.8	87.7	86.1	78.6	85.0	86.0	84.9	83.6	83.9	84.8	84.7	85.9	86.2	86.5
Mississippi	63.3	63.8	62.0	59.7	59.6	59.8	59.2	59.4	59.7	61.2	62.7	62.7	63.3	63.5	63.5
Missouri	76.0	76.8	76.0	75.0	74.7	75.2	75.8	76.3	75.5	76.8	78.3	80.4	80.6	81.0	81.9
Montana	84.4	85.5	86.5	83.9	83.2	82.2	81.3	80.8	80.0	79.8	81.0	80.4	81.5	81.9	81.5
Nebraska	86.7	87.2	86.9	85.6	84.8	85.6	87.3	85.7	83.8	83.9	85.2	87.6	87.8	87.0	86.3
Nevada	77.0	68.2	65.8	65.8	73.2	70.6	71.0	69.7	70.0	71.9	72.3	57.4	55.8	55.8	52.0
New Hampshire	78.6	80.5	78.4	77.5	77.3	76.7	75.3	76.1	77.8	77.8	78.2	78.7	80.1	81.1	81.7
New Jersey	81.4	83.4	82.1	82.8	83.9	76.3	77.5	83.6	85.4	85.8	87.0	86.3	85.1	84.8	84.4
New Mexico	70.1	66.9	64.4	63.7	62.5	61.6	63.3	64.7	65.9	67.4	63.1	67.0	65.4	67.3	59.1
New York	66.1	66.2	63.7	63.6	65.3	63.4	62.5	61.8	61.5	60.5	60.9	60.9 \4\	65.3	67.4	68.9
North Carolina	71.3	69.7	69.1	66.5	65.5	65.6	65.4	65.8	66.5	68.2	70.1	71.4	72.6	71.8	68.6
North Dakota	87.6	88.4	87.5	89.5	87.8	86.7	85.6	86.0	85.4	85.0	86.4	86.1	86.3	82.2	83.1
Ohio	77.5	81.1	79.9	74.5	76.4	77.0	75.0	75.2	76.5	77.5	79.0	81.3	80.2	79.2	78.7
Oklahoma	76.5	77.6	77.4	75.6	74.8	75.1	76.4	75.8	75.8	76.0	76.0	77.0	76.9	77.8	77.8
Oregon	72.7	72.9	71.2	68.3	69.1	69.0	68.2	69.6	68.3	71.0	73.7	74.2	74.2	73.0	73.8
Pennsylvania	79.7	81.0	80.1	80.0	79.8	79.4	79.1	78.7	79.0	80.2	81.7	82.2	82.5	83.5	83.0
Rhode Island	75.0	73.9	74.3	72.7	72.9	72.5	72.2	72.8	73.5	75.7	77.7	75.9	78.4	77.8	78.4
South Carolina	66.6	64.3	61.6	60.9	59.6	59.3	59.1	58.6	56.5	57.9	59.7	60.6	60.1	61.0	58.9
South Dakota	83.8	90.8	86.9	84.5	84.2	77.7	74.2	77.6	77.4	79.0	83.0	83.7	82.3	84.5	82.5
Tennessee	69.8	65.7	66.7	66.6	61.6	58.4	58.5	59.5	59.0	59.6	63.4	66.1	68.5	70.7	72.6
Texas	72.2	66.2	66.8	66.1	67.0	69.4	69.2	71.0	70.8	73.5	75.5	76.7	74.0	72.5	71.9
Utah	77.5	78.7	77.7	76.9	81.1	80.7	81.6	82.5	81.6	80.5	80.2	83.0	84.4	78.6	76.6
Vermont	79.5	83.5	88.9	85.3	83.6	83.9	81.9	81.0	80.2	82.0	83.6	85.4	86.5	82.3	88.5
Virginia	76.2	75.7	75.0	76.2	76.6	76.6	76.3	76.9	77.5	76.7	80.6	79.3	79.6	74.5	75.5
Washington	75.7	79.5	76.4	75.5	74.0	73.3	73.2	73.7	69.2	72.2	74.2	74.6	75.0	72.9	74.8
West Virginia	76.6	77.7	75.7	77.0	76.7	77.4	77.9	76.7	75.9	74.2	75.7	76.9	77.3	76.9	78.2
Wisconsin	85.2	84.7	84.0	83.6	83.7	83.1	82.6	82.7	83.3	84.8	85.8	85.8 \4\	86.7	87.5	88.5
Wyoming	81.1	84.0	78.8	77.7	78.4	77.1	76.6	76.3	73.4	74.4	73.9	76.0	76.7	76.1	75.8

---Not available.

\1\Includes estimates for New York and Wisconsin. Without estimates for these two states, the averaged freshman graduation rate for the remaining 48 states and the District of Columbia is 75.0 percent.

\2\U.S. total includes estimates for nonreporting states.

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SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Nonfiscal Survey of Public Elementary/Secondary Education," 1986-87 through 2007-08; *The Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate for Public High Schools From the Common Core of Data: School Years 2002-03 and 2003-04; and Projections of Education Statistics to 2017*. (This table was prepared September 2009.)

Table B. Averaged freshman graduation rates for public secondary schools, by state or jurisdiction: Selected years, 1990-91 through 2006-07

Compulsory Attendance Age: 16 17 18

State or	1991	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
United States	73.7	73.1	71.8	71.0	71.3	71.3	71.1	71.7	71.7	72.6	73.9	74.3 \1\	74.7	73.4 \2\	73.9
Alabama	69.8	64.3	64.8	62.7	62.4	64.4	61.3	64.1	63.7	62.1	64.7	65.0	65.9	66.2	67.1
Alaska	74.6	73.8	71.2	68.3	67.9	68.9	70.0	66.7	68.0	65.9	68.0	67.2	64.1	66.5	69.0
Arizona	76.7	71.7	65.1	60.8	65.3	65.6	62.3	63.6	74.2	74.7	75.9	66.8	84.7	70.5	69.6
Arkansas	76.6	76.1	72.7	74.2	70.6	73.9	73.7	74.6	73.9	74.8	76.6	76.8	75.7	80.4	74.4
California	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	68.9	69.6	71.1	71.7	71.6	72.7	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	70.7
Colorado	76.3	77.3	76.0	74.8	74.7	73.9	73.4	74.1	73.2	74.7	76.4	78.7	76.7	75.5	76.6
Connecticut	80.2	79.9	77.2	76.1	76.7	76.9	76.0	81.9	77.8	78.7	80.8	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	81.8
Delaware	72.5	70.8	68.7	70.4	71.7	74.1	70.4	66.8	71.0	69.5	73.0	72.9	73.0	76.3	71.9
District of Columbia	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	48.7	54.5	53.2	52.0	50.5	60.2	58.4	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] \4\	58.8
Florida	65.6	64.2	63.5	62.3	62.7	62.1	61.4	61.0	61.2	63.4	66.7	66.4	64.6	63.6	65.0
Georgia	70.3	66.3	63.5	61.9	62.0	58.2	57.5	59.7	58.7	61.1	60.8	61.2	61.7	62.4	64.1
Hawaii	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	69.1	68.8	67.8	70.9	68.3	72.1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	76.4
Idaho	79.6	79.9	80.2	80.5	80.1	79.7	79.5	79.4	79.6	79.3	81.4	81.5	81.0	80.5	80.4
Illinois	76.6	76.3	74.8	75.2	76.1	76.8	76.0	76.3	75.6	77.1	75.9	80.3	79.4	79.7	79.5
Indiana	76.9	74.7	73.8	73.6	74.0	73.8	74.3	71.8	72.1	73.1	75.5	73.5	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Iowa	84.4	86.1	84.5	84.3	84.6	83.9	83.3	83.1	82.8	84.1	85.3	85.8	86.6	86.9	86.5
Kansas	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Kentucky	72.9	79.2	73.8	71.3	71.1	70.2	70.0	69.7	69.8	69.8	71.7	73.0	75.9	77.2	76.4
Louisiana	57.5	61.5	62.4	61.7	59.3	61.3	61.1	62.2	63.7	64.4	64.1	69.4	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Maine	80.7	74.0	73.6	73.7	75.2	78.5	74.7	75.9	76.4	75.6	76.3	77.6	78.6	76.3	78.5
Maryland	77.5	78.9	78.2	78.3	76.6	76.2	76.6	77.6	78.7	79.7	79.2	79.5	79.3	79.9	80.0
Massachusetts	79.1	79.7	78.1	78.0	78.4	78.3	77.9	78.0	78.9	77.6	75.7	79.3	78.7	79.5	80.8
Michigan	72.1	72.4	71.3	71.4	73.5	74.6	73.9	75.3	75.4	72.9	74.0	72.5	73.0	72.2	77.0
Minnesota	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	84.8	84.7	85.9	86.2	86.5
Mississippi	63.3	63.8	62.0	59.7	59.6	59.8	59.2	59.4	59.7	61.2	62.7	62.7	63.3	63.5	63.5
Missouri	76.0	76.8	76.0	75.0	74.7	75.2	75.8	76.3	75.5	76.8	78.3	80.4	80.6	81.0	81.9
Montana	84.4	85.5	86.5	83.9	83.2	82.2	81.3	80.8	80.0	79.8	81.0	80.4	81.5	81.9	81.5
Nebraska	86.7	87.2	86.9	85.6	84.8	85.6	87.3	85.7	83.8	83.9	85.2	87.6	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nevada	77.0	68.2	65.8	65.8	73.2	70.6	71.0	69.7	70.0	71.9	72.3	57.4	55.8	55.8	[illegible]
New Hampshire	78.6	80.5	78.4	77.5	77.3	76.7	75.3	76.1	77.8	77.8	78.2	78.7	80.1	81.1	81.7
New Jersey	81.4	83.4	82.1	82.8	83.9	76.3	77.5	83.6	85.4	85.8	87.0	86.3	85.1	84.8	84.4
New Mexico	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
New York	66.1	66.2	63.7	63.6	65.3	63.4	62.5	61.8	61.5	60.5	60.9	60.9 \4\	65.3	67.4	68.9
North Carolina	71.3	69.7	69.1	66.5	65.5	65.6	65.4	65.8	66.5	68.2	70.1	71.4	72.6	71.8	68.6
North Dakota	87.6	88.4	87.5	89.5	87.8	86.7	85.6	86.0	85.4	85.0	86.4	86.1	86.3	82.2	83.1
Ohio	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	76.2	77.0	75.0	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	70.7
Oklahoma	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Oregon	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pennsylvania	79.7	81.0	80.1	80.0	79.8	79.4	79.1	78.7	79.0	80.2	81.7	82.2	82.5	83.5	83.0
Rhode Island	75.0	73.9	74.3	72.7	72.9	72.5	72.2	72.8	73.5	75.7	77.7	75.9	78.4	77.8	78.4
South Carolina	66.6	64.3	61.6	60.9	59.6	59.3	59.1	58.6	56.5	57.9	59.7	60.6	60.1	61.0	58.9
South Dakota	83.8	90.8	86.9	84.5	84.2	77.7	74.2	77.6	77.4	79.0	83.0	83.7	82.3	84.5	82.5
Tennessee	69.8	65.7	66.7	66.6	61.6	58.4	58.5	59.5	59.0	59.6	63.4	66.1	68.5	70.7	72.6
Texas	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Utah	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Vermont	79.5	83.5	88.9	85.3	83.6	83.9	81.9	81.0	80.2	82.0	83.6	85.4	86.5	82.3	88.5
Virginia	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Washington	75.7	79.5	76.4	75.5	74.0	73.3	73.2	73.7	69.2	72.2	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
West Virginia	76.6	77.7	75.7	77.0	76.7	77.4	77.9	76.7	75.9	74.2	75.7	76.9	77.3	76.9	78.2
Wisconsin	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] \4\	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Wyoming	81.1	84.0	78.8	77.7	78.4	77.1	76.6	76.3	73.4	74.4	73.9	76.0	76.7	76.1	75.8

---Not available.

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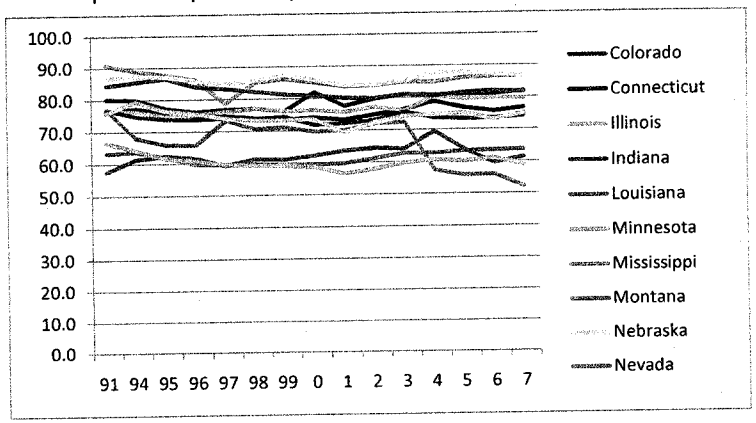
Compulsory Attendance Age: 16 17 18

State or jurisdiction	1991	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
United States	**73.7**	**73.1**	**71.8**	**71.0**	**71.3**	**71.3**	**71.1**	**71.7**	**71.7**	**72.6**	**73.9**	**74.3**	**74.7**	**73.4**	**73.9**
Colorado	76.3	77.3	76.0	74.8	74.7	73.9	73.4	74.1	73.2	74.7	76.4	78.7	76.7	75.5	76.6
Connecticut	80.2	79.9	77.2	76.1	76.7	76.9	76.0	81.9	77.5	79.7	80.9	80.7	80.9	80.9	81.8
Illinois	76.6	76.3	74.8	75.2	76.1	76.8	76.0	76.3	75.6	77.1	75.9	80.3	79.4	79.7	79.5
Indiana	76.9	74.7	73.8	73.6	74.0	73.8	74.3	71.8	72.1	73.1	75.5	73.5	73.2	73.3	73.9
Louisiana	57.5	61.5	62.4	61.7	59.3	61.3	61.1	62.2	63.7	64.4	64.1	69.4	63.9	59.5	61.3
Minnesota	90.8	88.8	87.7	86.1	78.6	85.0	86.0	84.9	83.6	83.9	84.8	84.7	85.9	86.2	86.5
Mississippi	63.3	63.8	62.0	59.7	59.6	59.8	59.2	59.4	59.7	61.2	62.7	62.7	63.3	63.5	63.5
Montana	**84.4**	**85.5**	**86.5**	**83.9**	**83.2**	**82.2**	**81.3**	**80.8**	**80.0**	**79.8**	**81.0**	**80.4**	**81.5**	**81.9**	**81.5**
Nebraska	86.7	87.2	86.9	85.6	84.8	85.6	87.3	85.7	83.8	83.9	85.2	87.6	87.8	87.0	86.3
Nevada	77.0	68.2	65.8	65.8	73.2	70.6	71.0	69.7	70.0	71.9	72.3	57.4	55.8	55.8	52.0
South Carolina	66.6	64.3	61.6	60.9	59.6	59.3	59.1	58.6	56.5	57.9	59.7	60.6	60.1	61.0	58.9
Washington	75.7	79.5	76.4	75.5	74.0	73.3	73.2	73.7	69.2	72.2	74.2	74.6	75.0	72.9	74.8



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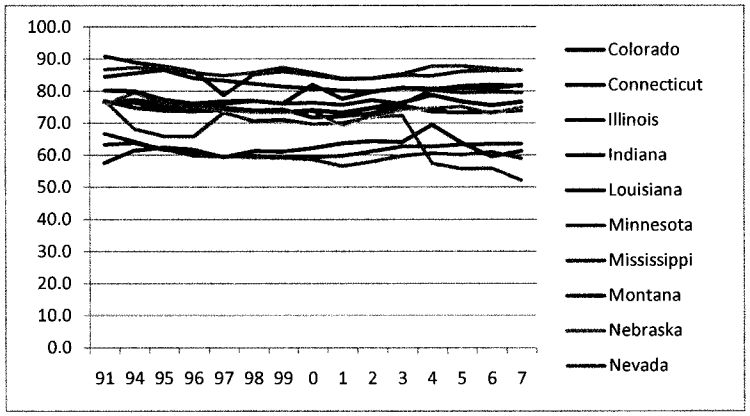
State or jurisdiction	1991	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
United States	73.7	73.1	71.8	71.0	71.3	71.3	71.1	71.7	71.7	72.6	73.9	74.3	74.7	73.4	73.9
Colorado	76.3	77.3	76.0	74.8	74.7	73.9	73.4	74.1	73.2	74.7	76.4	78.7	76.7	75.5	76.6
Connecticut	80.2	79.9	77.2	76.1	76.7	76.9	76.0	81.9							
Illinois	76.6	76.3	74.8	75.2	76.1	76.8	76.0	76.3	75.6	77.1	75.9	80.3	79.4	79.7	79.5
Indiana	76.9	74.7	73.8	73.6	74.0	73.8	74.3	71.8	72.1	73.1	75.5	73.5			
Louisiana	57.5	61.5	62.4	61.7	59.3	61.3	61.1	62.2	63.7	64.4	64.1	69.4			
Minnesota											84.8	84.7	85.9	86.2	86.5
Mississippi	63.3	63.8	62.0	59.7	59.6	59.8	59.2	59.4	59.7	61.2	62.7	62.7	63.3	63.5	63.5
Montana	**84.4**	**85.5**	**86.5**	**83.9**	**83.2**	**82.2**	**81.3**	**80.8**	**80.0**	**79.8**	**81.0**	**80.4**	**81.5**	**81.9**	**81.5**
Nebraska	86.7	87.2	86.9	85.6	84.8	85.6	87.3	85.7	83.8	83.9	85.2	87.6			
Nevada	77.0	68.2	65.8	65.8	73.2	70.6	71.0	69.7	70.0	71.9	72.3	57.4	55.8	55.8	
South Carolina	66.6	64.3	61.6	60.9	59.6	59.3	59.1	58.6	56.5	57.9	59.7	60.6	60.1	61.0	58.9
Washington	75.7	79.5	76.4	75.5	74.0	73.3	73.2	73.7	69.2	72.2					



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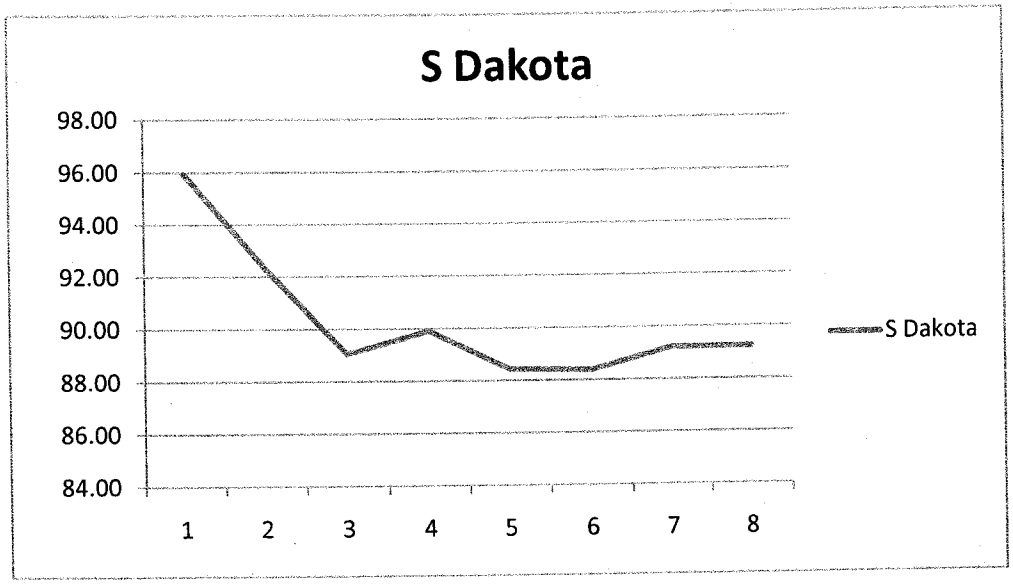
SB44 STRIKE WHITE

Table B. Averaged freshman graduation rates for public secondary schools for

State	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
S Dakota	95.95	92.33	89.05	89.91	88.44	88.39	89.21	89.23



SB44 Stephen Wirth

Table B. Averaged freshman graduation rates for public secondary schools for

State	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
S Dakota	95.95	92.33	89.05	89.91	88.44	88.39	89.21	89.23